Foodgrains Production Target

250. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target of foodgrains production fixed for the current financial year;

(b) whether the target is expected to be fulfilled; and

(c) whether there are prospects of the above target being exceeded and imports of foodgrains stopped altogether in view of the good seasonal rains the country got in the recent months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The target of foodgrains production for 1988-89 is 166.57 million tonnes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Favourable weather conditions will help in maximising foodgrain production. The Government is keeping a close watch on the food situation in the country and keeps open the option to import the foodgrains as and when considered necessary.

Body for providing speedy relief for Natural Calamities

251. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any permanent body functioning in the country to provide speedy relief to the people in different parts of the country when natural disasters like floods, famines, etc. occur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and if not, whether Government contemplate to set up such a body with adequate funds to tackle natural disaster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) It is the responsibility of the State Government concerned to provide necessary relief to the natural calamity affected people in their State. All the State governments have been allocated annual margin money for the purpose in case the States incur an expenditure over and above the margin money, they can submit memoranda seeking central assistance for this purpose. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in the Centre acts as a nodal authority in the matter of providing speedy Central assistance to the natural calamity affected people.

Implementation of Anti-Poverty Programmes in Orissa

252. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the various major anti-poverty programmes under implementation in Orissa;

(b) whether they are meant for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(c) if so, the number of SC & ST families benefited under these programmes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI) (a) and (b) Major anti-poverty programmes under implementation for socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes taken up in Orissa are—

1. Integrated Rural Development Programme;

2. Economic Rehabilitation of Rural Poor;

3. Assistance to Small & Marginal Farmers;

4. Release and Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers;